

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(Currently Amended) A precision polishing element, comprising:

a substantially rigid support member having an outer perimeter for cooperating with a tool, said outer perimeter terminating at one end in a mounting surface;

a polishing member mountable to said mounting surface of said substantially rigid support member, said polishing member having a plurality of spaced ~~compliant polishing portions~~ lobes, nearest adjacent ones of said plurality of spaced ~~compliant polishing portions~~ lobes being separated by a recessed portion, said nearest adjacent ones of said plurality of spaced lobes projecting outwardly from the recessed portion, said recessed portion forming a fluid transport region when nearest adjacent compliant polishing portions lobes are in compressive contact with a surface to be polished.

2.(Currently Amended) A precision polishing element,
comprising:

a substantially rigid support member having an outer perimeter for cooperating with a tool, said outer perimeter terminating at one end in a mounting surface;

a polishing member ~~The precision polishing element recited in claim 1 wherein said polishing member has~~ having a substantially toroidal shape, the polishing member mountable to said mounting surface of said substantially rigid support member, said polishing member having a plurality of spaced compliant polishing portions, nearest adjacent ones of said plurality of spaced compliant polishing portions being separated by a recessed portion, said recessed portion forming a fluid transport region when nearest adjacent compliant polishing portions are in compressive contact with a surface to be polished.

3.(Withdrawn) The precision polishing element recited in claim 1 wherein said polishing member has a substantially polygonal shape.

4.(Withdrawn) The precision polishing element recited in claim 1 wherein said polishing member has a substantially star-like shape having irregularly configured lobes.

5.(Original) The precision polishing element recited in claim 1 wherein said polishing member has a continuous groove formed in a circumferential portion thereof.

6.(Original) The precision polishing element recited in claim 1 wherein said compliant polishing member comprises a material selected from the group consisting of an elastic solid material, a polymeric material, and a mixture thereof.

7.(Original) The precision polishing element recited in claim 6 wherein said polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of: polyurethane, chloroprene, fluorocarbon, fluorosilicone, ethylene propylene, and nitrile.

8.(Original) The precision polishing element recited in claim 7 wherein said polymeric material is nitrile.

9.(Original) The precision polishing element recited in claim 1 wherein said substantially rigid support member is mounted to said polishing member by chemical bonding.

10.(Withdrawn) The precision polishing element recited in claim 1 wherein said substantially rigid support member is mounted to said polishing member by thermal bonding.

11.(Withdrawn) The precision polishing element recited in claim 1 wherein said substantially rigid support member is mounted to said polishing member by mechanical bonding.

12.(Withdrawn) The precision polishing element recited in claim 1 wherein said substantially rigid support member is mounted to said polishing member by direct molding.

13.(Original) The precision polishing element recited in claim 1 wherein each of said plurality of spaced compliant polishing portions has a Shore A hardness in the range of about 40-95.